

What is claimed is:

- 2 1. A method of communicating information to a user that is operating a computer system on a wide  
area network, the method comprising the acts of:

4 sending a request for a first resource to a first server on the wide area network;

receiving the first resource from the first server on the wide area network;

6 displaying the first resource on a screen associated with the computer system;

8 sending a description of the first resource to a second server on the wide area network, where  
the second server is different from the first server;

10 receiving a response from the second server, wherein the response indicates which types of  
supplemental information relating to the first resource are available;

12 communicating to the user the types of supplemental information relating to the first resource  
that are available;

14 waiting for the user to request a type of supplemental information relating to the first resource;

16 sending a request over the wide area network to a server on which supplemental information of  
the requested type is stored;

18 receiving from the server on which supplemental information of the requested type is stored the  
requested type of supplemental information for the first resource; and

20 displaying the requested type of supplemental information relating to the first resource on the  
screen.

- 22 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of sending a request for a first resource to a first server on  
the wide area network includes the act of:

24 sending a request for a dynamically-generated resource to a server on the wide area network,  
wherein the server dynamically generates resources.

- 26 3. A system comprising:

28 a network having a first server, a second server, and a third server, all of which are in  
communication with each other on the network;

30 a client computer having a display screen, wherein the client computer is operated by a user,  
and wherein the client computer is on the network and in communication with the first server, the  
second server, and the third server; and

2 a data storage medium that is accessible to the client computer and that has one or more  
programs stored on it, wherein the programs are configured to cause the client computer to:  
4 send a request for a first resource to the first server on the network,  
receive the first resource from the first server on the network,  
display the first resource on the display screen associated with the client computer,  
6 wait for the user to request that supplemental information for the first resource be displayed on  
the display screen,  
8 send a description of the first resource to a second server on the network, where the second  
server is different from the first server,  
10 receive a response from the second server, wherein the response indicates that supplemental  
information relating to the first resource is available, and wherein the response also identifies a third  
12 server, wherein the third server is a server on which the supplemental information is stored,  
send a request to the third server on which the supplemental information is stored, requesting  
14 the supplemental information for the first resource,  
16 receive from the third server the supplemental information for the first resource,  
display the supplemental information on the display screen associated with the client computer,  
18 send a request for a second resource to a fourth server on the network,  
receive the second resource from the fourth server on the network,  
20 display the second resource on the display screen associated with the client computer, and  
discontinue the display of the supplemental information for the first resource when the first  
22 resource is no longer displayed on the screen.

24 4. The computer of claim 3, wherein the data storage medium is integrated into the client computer.

5. The computer of claim 4, wherein the data storage medium is a hard disk drive.

add a 57  
add b 17